



GFWC Communications and Public Relations Newsletter May 2019

Networking

Networking is a process that fosters the exchange of information and ideas among individuals or groups that share a common interest. It may be used for social or business purposes. GFWC members network to connect with like-minded individuals and organizations to assist with their projects, programs and events.

Look for volunteer opportunities where a specific skill or expertise you or your club has that would benefit a particular cause. Getting your club name out with other nonprofit organizations will help secure interest among people who might want to join your club in the future.

Networking also gives you the opportunity to meet new people. It allows you to refine and develop your social skills, while making you more confident.

Network with individuals. Is there a woman in your town who sells Pampered Chef? Invite her to be a speaker at a club meeting where she can sell her products and make arrangements for your club to a percentage of her sales.

Network with other clubs. Is there a project that your club and another can work on together? The GFWC Sunshine Club extends an invite to the GFWC Cupcake Club to work on assembling comfort pillows for breast cancer patients.

Together more hands make less work for all.

Network with other organizations. The GFWC Friends Always Club reaches out to a local Senior Center who has a knitting group and asks them to make hats and scarves to include in their Holiday Baskets project.

Top five tips when networking with others face to face:

- When you first meet someone use their name a few times to create familiarity with it.
- Inquire about interests, hobbies, and passions instead of asking "Where do you work?"
- Interesting people make meaningful connections. Be able to talk about your passions.
- Don't monopolize the conversation.
- Follow up with contacts. Be helpful, generous, and considerate when reconnecting after events.

Overall, it's easy to build meaningful connections while volunteering; this is an important part of networking. While you are volunteering, you can almost guarantee a shared interest between you and other people at the event because you are all likely interested in the organization or the cause for which you are volunteering. Reach out and don't be afraid to network.

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